

8 December 1953

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# SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito is today in Red Sea on way to meet another "in-between" Nehru of India. His visit will last from

1-December into the new year.

invitation given by Mme. Pandit during

her visit Yugo in June, announced by

Yugo 15 September. Indian and Yugo

press comment rapturous, stressing

common interests, although Yugo press

denies intention forming "third force."

Will go on to Burma, but not to China.

2. Trip to East is Tito's first--previously

visited England (March 1953); Turkey,

Greece (spring 1954).

1. Tito's visit comes in midst intensified period Soviet wooing Yugo.

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Recent Soviet gestures:

16 Sep - Moscow starts quoting Yugo  
press, leaders.

1 Oct - Agreement reopen trade.

4 Oct - Warsaw pulls all anti-Tito  
books from book stores--Soviet  
attache personally repurchases  
such books in Paris.

13 Oct - Chinese Communist embassies in-  
vite Yugo diplomats to national  
day parties.

16-20 Oct - On tenth anniversary Belgrade  
liberation, plugs role of Yugo-  
slav partisans in World War II.

6 Nov - Soviet Politburo member Saburov,  
in major speech, stresses im-  
proved relations with Yugo, and  
pledges continued efforts--

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25 Nov - Malenkov, Khrushchev  
and Bulganin raise a toast  
"Comrade Tito and the Yugoslav  
Communist Party" at Yugoslav  
embassy Republic Day celebration.

1. This is first direct  
expression of "approval"  
ward the Yugo "heretics"  
since split in '48.
2. Attendance of Soviet delegation  
in itself, was an extraordinary event: They stayed  
party over an hour, so  
to Yugo Ambassador, his  
social duties interrupted.

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28-29 Nov - Yugo anniversary given extraordinary attention throughout Orbit.

1. In Poland, leading figures-- including Rokossowski and Ochab--actually request invitations to attend party given by Yugo charge, who had only invited officials of his own rank.
2. In Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, premiers unexpectedly attend parties.

Yugos have taken increasing steps to counterbalance impressions created by Soviet campaign.

A. Tito says he will not "go back to Moscow," calls such talk "arrant nonsense."

B. Also says will not let improved Yugo-Soviet relations affect Balkan Pact cooperation.

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likewise, won't allow cut in Yugo defense budget.

D. Yugos refused to attend Moscow security conference, said it was a propaganda gesture.

E. No signs that Yugo changing basic trade orientation to West, or reliance on Western economic aid.

F.

Question of Tito's personal experiences with USSR gives interesting side-light to present "wooing." Review of history (warning: much of it written after '48 break) shows:

A. A Hapsburg POW, Tito spent 1915-20 in Russia--fought on Bolshevik side, married, returned to Balkans.



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Tito visited Moscow five times between '34-'39 on Cominform or Yugo-Commie business but never met any high-level Soviet leaders, felt Yugo Commies were distrusted.

Up to '44, thoroughly embittered by lack of Soviet support for partisans, opposition to Yugo provisional government.

D. First met Stalin on sixth Moscow trip Sept '44.

For the first half year following break in June 1948, Tito unwilling to blame Stalin himself, who he assumed was "misinformed" by those around him.

From propaganda, USSR has real interest in reversing Yugo trend toward closer ties with West (viz: Balkan Pact). Probable

Soviet aim is bring Yugoslavia back to neutral

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